

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

November 19, 2009

Chairperson and Members  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Land Board Members:

**SUBJECT:** Request for Approval of Three Forest Reserve Management Plans: 1) Na Pali-Kona Forest Reserve, Hanalei and Waimea, Kauai, 2) Puu ka Pele Forest Reserve, Waimea, Kauai, and 3) Molokai Forest Reserve, Molokai and Kalawao, Molokai

**Background:** The Hawaii Forest Reserve System was created by the Territorial Government of Hawaii on April 25, 1903. Forest reserves were intended to protect mauka forests and watersheds in order to ensure an ample supply of water to developing agricultural interests, which in turn would ensure the prosperity and welfare of the Territory. The Forest Reserve System is Hawaii's first and oldest official structure for land conservation. Today, DOFAW manages 52 forest reserves across the State, encompassing approximately 650,000 acres of public land.

Intermittently throughout the twentieth century, forestry staff developed management plans for a variety of forest reserves; however this practice was discontinued during the 1970s for undocumented reasons. The Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) is conducting on-going planning efforts to develop and update management plans for all forest reserves across the State. These efforts are intended to be consistent across the State and serve to organize field management, assist in budgeting and funding concerns, and to make the process of providing input to and viewing the resulting management plans transparent for partner organizations and the public.

These plans will also contribute towards fulfillment of recommendations made in the Hawaii Tropical Forest Recovery Action Plan, which came about as a result of the 1992 Federal Hawaii Tropical Forest Recovery Act. Specific recommendations addressed by these management plans include:

- Recommendation 1: Using a partnership-based, ecosystem management approach, develop a comprehensive management, protection, and utilization strategy for the forest resources of Hawaii;
- Recommendation 6: Protect and restore native forest ecosystems through adequate

support of existing state, federal, and private organizations' natural resource programs in an effort to contribute to healthy forest ecosystems and the recovery of plant and animal species listed as threatened and endangered;

- Recommendation 7: Expand research and support for comprehensive game management efforts to enhance hunting opportunities;
- Recommendation 8: Establish koa and other hardwood reforestation projects on formerly forested lands to restore a full range of values and purposes, from commercial forests to natural ecosystems;
- Recommendation 10: Utilize existing fire management expertise in a coordinated effort to share knowledge and resources for prevention, presuppression and suppression, and vegetation management activities. Enhance existing fire suppression capabilities, including private sector resources; and
- Recommendation 19: Update or complete and implement management plans for all publicly owned and managed forests.

The subject forest reserve management plans were developed using a variety of methods. Initial development consisted of reviewing and analyzing DOFAW historic and current files (both at the Administrative and Branch offices) and documents obtained from the Land Division, Survey Division, Bureau of Conveyances, as well as State Archives. State of Hawai'i Geographic Information Systems (GIS) map layers relating to biological, historical, and environmental resources were referenced to develop this plan. Additional resources utilized included other plans that identified the Forest Reserve or the area. Examples include the Hawaiian Forester and Agriculturalist, the Hawai'i Biodiversity and Mapping Program, Hawai'i's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Plans and others.

The plans then evolved through additional iterations via discussions with Division staff from all program areas both at the Branch and Administrative offices, other Divisions and State agencies, DOFAW partners (including targeted community members suggested by watershed partnerships and Branch staff), and the general public. The process followed in developing final forest reserve management plans is detailed further in Exhibit A.

**Discussion:** The Division will periodically bring a group of the most recently developed management plans forward for Board review. Board approval of the subject forest reserve management plans is intended to trigger some or all of the following actions:

1. Preparation of regulatory compliance documents as required for implementation of management actions as outlined in the plan.
2. DOFAW efforts to secure operational and planning funding for plan objectives.
3. Prioritized implementation of plan objectives by DOFAW.
4. Periodic solicitation of requests for proposals or bids for implementation of plan objectives, including issuance of permits, licenses, or contracts (Hawai'i Administrative Rules §13-104-22), as necessary.

The Division has completed and approved these three subject management plans and submits them for your review:

1. Na-Pali-Kona Forest Reserve, Kauai (Exhibit B)
2. Puu ka Pele Forest Reserve, Kauai (Exhibit C)
3. Molokai Forest Reserve, Molokai (DOFAW Maui Branch) (Exhibit D)

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Board of Land and Natural Resources:

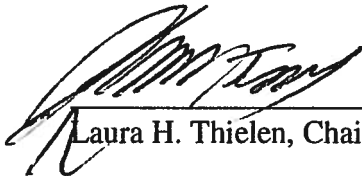
1. Approve the three subject forest reserve management plans as guiding documents to the management of the subject reserves.

Respectfully submitted,



PAUL J. CONRY, Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



Laura H. Thielen, Chairperson

## Exhibit A

### Na Pali-Kona Forest Reserve, Kauai

Stage of Development	Date Achieved	Comments
Branch review	June 2008	Incorporated
DOFAW review	December 2008	Incorporated
Partner agency consultation	February 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two responses received from targeted community members</li> <li>• Six responses received from partners and other government agencies</li> </ul>
Public consultation	May 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Press release May 8, 2009</li> <li>• Plan posted on DOFAW website from May 1 to May 26, 2009</li> <li>• One response received</li> </ul>
DOFAW approval	June 2009	None
BLNR approval		Pending

### Puu ka Pele Forest Reserve, Kauai

Stage of Development	Date Achieved	Comments
Branch review	November 2008	Incorporated
DOFAW review	January 2009	Incorporated
Partner agency consultation	April 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One response received from targeted community member</li> <li>• Five responses received from partners and other government agencies</li> </ul>
Public consultation	May 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Press release May 8, 2009</li> <li>• Plan posted on DOFAW website from May 1 to May 26, 2009</li> <li>• No responses received</li> </ul>
DOFAW approval	June 2009	None
BLNR approval		Pending